



December 7, 2014

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Since 2011, Forge Cellars, comprised of two New York partners and renowned French winemaker, Louis Barruol, have been making wine in Hector, New York in the heart of the Finger Lakes. In a short time, we have been able to compete on the international stage, receive critical acclaim and realize distribution across the U.S. and soon, Europe and Japan.

We are currently in negotiations to buy 21 acres of land, plant vineyards and build a winery on the east side of Seneca Lake about eight miles north of Watkins Glen. The land surrounding Seneca lake provides everything we need to make world class wine and to create further tax dollars and growth for the region. The 91 and 92 point scores we have thus far received from Wine Spectator come from wines made with grapes nourished by the soil, the air, and the water of Seneca Lake.

We are greatly concerned (better to say "alarmed") about the Crestwood gas storage project under our greatest resource. The threat of toxins and potential for environmental disaster provide long-term risks which we as business people and residents of the community do not wish to take. We stand at the crossroads of making a major financial investment and staking our business and its reputation on the potential of the Finger Lakes, an emerging wine region with limitless opportunity. Allowing Crestwood to proceed with its gas storage operation is unwise in light of the dangers it poses.

Do you want to risk the health and purity of one of New York's most prized tourist, agricultural and manufacturing regions for one corporation's benefit? Do you want to risk the waters, wildlife and surrounding soils of this forty-mile long lake? As the Finger Lakes hits the world wine scene, do you want it to be known as one that is pristine and that can tout its greatest resource with pride? Or do you want it to be known as the wine region that "sold out" to big business because it is ignorant and short-sighted?

Let us present our wines to the world, grow our industry and aim for the pinnacle of quality we know we can achieve. Please halt this operation and protect our valuable industry. Stop the contamination of our land before it can happen. Do everything you can to reverse Crestwood's plans which so many of our wineries, business leaders and citizens vehemently oppose. We implore you to act quickly.

Respectfully,

Richard Rainey, Justin Boyette, Louis Barruol  
Forge Cellars  
Hector, NY